

REMARKSStatus of Claims

Claims 1-16 were originally presented.

Claims 1, 9 are cancelled, and claims 17, 18 added by this amendment.

Claims 2-8 and 10-18, as amended, remain for examination.

Claim Rejections

Original claims 1-16 stand variously rejected under 35 USC 102 and 103 on reference to Stockdale and LeStrange. Stockdale is the primary reference

LeStrange, the secondary reference, is cited only for showing a pull-down arm on a gaming machine.

Stockdale discloses a gaming machine with gaming "peripherals" communicating with a master controller via a standard interface such as a USB. The peripherals employ a standard peripheral controller and one or more specialized peripheral devices (e.g. lights, bill validators, ticket printers) to perform specific gaming functions. Much of the peripheral controller hardware is identical from one gaming peripheral to the next. Only a portion of the peripheral controller hardware is specific to the different gaming peripherals.

In Stockdale, the term "peripherals" refers to its various components which are internal (in the box) and permanent components of a "special purpose" machine.

In the present invention, "peripheral" means a component or device which is external (outside the box) and non-permanent device for removable connection to a "general purpose" computer.

Underlinings in the above sentences point out clear differences between the applicant's invention and the prior art. These differences are substantial, and they are all recited in the claims, as amended herein.

Consider the following information as one manifestation of the differences between this invention and the prior art: A removable peripheral device of this invention is truly a peripheral, and will cost something like 3%-5% of the cost of a Stockdale machine.

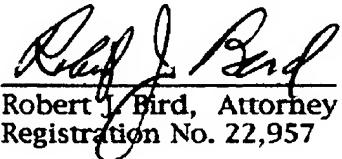
Conclusion

It is submitted that the issue to be resolved here is not novelty or obviousness of the invention vis-a-vis the prior art, but definition of the invention, i.e. claim language.

The claims, as they are now presented, fairly define the applicant's invention and clearly differentiate it from the prior art as discussed above. The Examiner is requested to reconsider this application in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, and to render action thereon favorable to the applicant. If any questions remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned to resolve them.

Respectfully,

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